

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 28, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

Safety. Affordability. Pride. These are the three themes I repeated in my 2008 county budget address yesterday.

Safety: We gave the Sheriff the resources he needs to protect our parks and buses and to address violent crime in the City of Milwaukee and throughout the county. We built this off of the success of enhanced patrols on the lakefront this summer.

We also put more into programs to keep our young kids out of a cycle of crime, increase supervision of offenders in the community and improve one of the best paramedic programs in the country. Public Safety is a priority in my budget.

Affordability: If taxes continued to grow at the same rate as before I got here, we'd be paying **\$43.9 million more** in taxes this year. Instead, for the 6th budget in a row, there is a 0% increase in the tax levy.

This budget was built to protect the retired couple living on Social Security, the new homeowners with a baby and the entrepreneur just branching out to start a new business. These people need to be able to afford to live, work, grow and retire in Milwaukee County.

Pride: Our budget includes a significant investment in our roads, highways, parkways and airport. We restored the transit routes that were to be eliminated and keep ParaTransit service. We push new construction and housing opportunities. We continue our health care for low-income individuals, increase long-term care for our seniors, expand FamilyCare to people with disabilities and improve care for those suffering from mental illness.

We continue our investments in the zoo, our cultural institutions and the parks. Besides adding more than \$14 million in new capital improvements to the parks, we actually **INCREASE** the number of hours of work in the parks. My plan to replace year-round, full-time employees with seasonal employees actually increases

the total work hours in the parks by nearly 20,000. Plus, it makes a great deal of sense.

Do you pay the kid who mows your lawn to work in the December? No. Our plan just makes common sense as we allow the parks system to use hire and use staff at the times when they need it most. Our plan will actually **IMPROVE** care for the parks.

Still, there will certainly be plenty of opportunities for the defenders of the status quo to try and attack our budget and give out misinformation about the details. Watch for all of the facts in our weekly update and help spread the good news about Milwaukee County.

Scott

Walker 2008 Budget Address



County Executive Walker presented his sixth straight budget with no increase in the tax levy from the previous year to the County Board of Supervisors Thursday. Notable for taxpayers, the board narrowly sustained his veto of the sales tax 1% increase referendum which had no legal mandate on county or state government and would detract from the real debate on how to find innovative ways to provide core county services without raising taxes.

Public Safety First



County Executive Walker was joined by Sheriff David Clarke, Jr. and Assistant Superintendent of the House of Correction Willie Brisco to announce public safety initiatives. The 2008 proposed budget provides almost \$3.5 million additionally for staffing and equipment for the Targeted Enforcement Unit to enhance patrols in high-need areas of the County. It also implements the use of 24/7 monitoring of work release offenders to improve accountability.

Walker appearance with Mike Gousha at MU



County Executive Walker made a guest appearance at Mike Gousha's series of newsmakers in the community for law students at Sensenbrenner Hall at Marquette University. The hour-long session covered the state of the county, upcoming budget items and choosing public service as a career.

Party for the Parks



Last chance to win the Harley-Davidson motorcycle to benefit the county parks! Tickets for \$5 will be available at the Party for the Parks at Washington Park on Saturday, September 29, 2007. The drawing at 8pm will cap off a fun-filled day of free activities including rock climbing, live music, karaoke with prizes, inflatable slides, kite building sessions, paddleboat rides, and the Radio Disney Street Jam Show. Bring family and friends to enjoy the day and listen to musical favorites like the Eddie Butts Band, Brandon James Band, and The Love Monkeys. The food village will be open from 12:30 – 9:30pm. Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Wehr Nature Center, The Domes and Boerner Botanical Gardens will feature activities for kids, the American Heart Association Worldwide Day of Play and Balloon-ville offer other kid-friendly opportunities for fun.

Community Events

County Executive Walker met with Transportation Secretary Mary Peters as part of a Port of Milwaukee Tour, joined Eric Von of WMCS 1290 radio for an on-air interview on the 2008 budget, attended the Badger Mutual open house and the 10th Annual Milwaukee Police Association golf outing dinner and program.